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Japan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Japanese Regulations on Irradiated Food 2006

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Report Highlights:

This report is to clarify existing Japanese regulations on the irradiation of food and food ingredients. Japan currently prohibits the sale of both irradiated food and food with irradiated ingredients. The only exception to this rule is for potatoes.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

Although irradiation is an internationally accepted method for enhancing the safety and quality of food and is approved in over 40 countries, Japan currently prohibits the sale of both irradiated food and food with irradiated ingredients. The only exception to this rule is for potatoes, which may be irradiated but must be labeled as such.

There have been discussions recently about whether or not to allow sales of irradiated spices in Japan, however it is not yet clear whether any changes will be made due to a lack of understanding by consumers about the risks and benefits associated with irradiated food.

Further information about the safety of irradiated food can be found at the following website:
<http://www.iaea.org/icgfi/documents/foodirradiation.pdf>